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March 11, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express concern about SkyWest Airlines terminating service to the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District, and other Essential Air Service (EAS) locations. SkyWest Airlines, which shares code with United Airlines, is leaving 29 EAS locations due to the current pilot shortage, which will leave these airports with limited or no scheduled service. I request that the Department of Transportation utilize all authorities to ensure continued service to these impacted cities until a new carrier can be selected.

Like many other EAS locations, the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport is essential to the region's economic development efforts and connects rural communities to other regional hubs. The most recent economic impact study conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation found that the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport provided \$72.1 million in economic output, supported 458 jobs, and contributed \$15.3 million in wage income to the local and state economy.

The Chippewa Valley community and others like it cannot afford to lose access to the vital air transportation services they need and the economic benefits the EAS service brings to the region. Unfortunately, the current state of the aviation industry is negatively impacting rural communities' ability to access the National Air Transportation System. I request that you work with the impacted airports to ensure this vital service is retained for their communities.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Rep. Ron Kind
Member of Congress